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**Testimony to the GAE Committee—Proposed Bill 829 AAC Persons Who
Assist Others In Registering As Electors**

February 20, 2015

In Opposition

Greetings, Senator Cassano, Representative Jutila, and GAE Committee Members,

We are the two registrars of voters for the Town of Wilton—Tina Gardner (R) and Carole Young-Kleinfeld (D). We wish to submit joint testimony, in opposition to Proposed Bill 829 which would require persons who assist others to register to vote to file a statement with the Secretary of the State. We believe that this proposal would serve to suppress voter registration efforts in Connecticut.

Many “good government” groups, nonprofit organizations, and even parents of young voters assist voters by distributing voter applications, holding registration drives and helping with on-line voter registration. Requiring every one of these groups and every person involved in such efforts to submit a written statement to the Secretary of State is a burdensome administrative mandate that serves no particular purpose, except to discourage voter registration.

Registrars frequently depend on the assistance of volunteers, such as local Leagues of Women Voters or PTAs, especially during annual high school registration drives and at other public events. This proposed bill would introduce unnecessary obstacles in recruiting their assistance and subject each such volunteer to potential elections violations.

State statutes already prohibit and establish penalties for fraud in voter registration, and require immediate transfer of cross-town voter registration applications, making this proposal detrimental to voter participation in Connecticut elections.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Tina Gardner, Registrars
Wilton, CT